

## IMPROVED METHOD FOR DISPLAYING CONTROLS IN A SYSTEM USING A GRAPHICAL USER INTERFACE

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### Abstract of the Disclosure

10 In a computer employing a graphical user interface (GUI), a  
method for displaying controls in command bars, which replace  
conventional menu bars and toolbars. Command bars employ a unified  
data structure that allows all types of controls to be included in both menu-  
like command bars and toolbar-like command bars. Command bars may be  
15 customized by dragging controls from a list of available commands or  
from another command bar. By not restricting the types of controls that  
can appear in each command bar, controls may be grouped to associate  
drop down menu controls with pushbutton controls. Menu-like command  
bars and toolbar-like command bars may be merged in a way that provides  
an intuitive and advantageous listing of commands. Menu popups may be  
20 torn off using a clearly indicated drag handle.

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